

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 071255Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3681

S E C R E T KINGSTON 0056

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, PINT, JM

SUBJ: BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS SITREP 2

1. ALLEN ISAACS PASSED BY DCM RESIDENCE SATURDAY EVENING TO GIVE CHARGE A REPORT ON FRIDAY'S MEETING OF ECONOMIC COUNCIL. COUNCIL DID IN FACT CONSIDER A SUMMARY VERSION OF BAUXITE COMMISSION'S REPORT INCLUDING RECOMMENDATION THAT GOJ RESUME CONTROL OF ALL BAUXITE LANDS. PRESENTATION MADE BY PATRICK ROUSSEAU, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION. ACCORDING TO ISAACS HE AND ARTHUR BROWN THEN TOOK ROUSSEAU THOROUGHLY TO TASK FOR THE SUPERFICIAL AND ILL-CONSIDERED NATURE OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS. UPSHOT WAS THAT COUNCIL DIRECTED BAUXITE COMMISSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH ISAACS TO COME UP WITH SOLIDER RECOMMENDATIONS IN ONE MONTH. ISAACS SAID HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY MANLEY'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON FRIDAY, AND EVEN MORE SURPRISED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION BETWEEN MANLEY AND OTHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT USING PRIME MINISTER'S ANNUAL BUDGET ADDRESS TO THE PARLIAMENT ON MAY 1 AS A VEHICLE FOR A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY. ISAACS SAID HE TOLD MANLEY THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO GET THE NEGOTIATION OVER WITH FIRST AND WORRY ABOUT ANNOUNCEMENTS AFTERWARDS.

2. ISAACS SAID HE PLANNED TO COME UP WITH A PAPER IN TWO PARTS BY THE END OF THE MONTH. THE FIRST PART WOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO INCREASE REVENUES TO THE GOJ FROM THE INDUSTRY. THE SECOND PART WOULD DEAL WITH LONGER TERM OBJECTIVES TO DO WITH LANDS, EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION AND SO ON.

SECRET

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3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT ISAACS HAS BEEN FAR FROM CONTROLLING EVENTS IN THE BAUXITE AREA. HE WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT HE WAS ABLE TO RE-ESTABLISH A MEASURE OF CONTROL AS A RESULT OF FRIDAY'S ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING. HOWEVER IT IS OBVIOUS THAT HE AND

MANLEY ARE NOT WORKING TOGETHER, AND IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT EITHER
ARE IN FULL CONTROL AT THIS POINT.
HEWITT

SECRET

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